

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 02900 150136Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /080 W
----- 001593 /11

R 150050Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7456
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2900

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN EIND EALR EAID ECON EINV LA FR
SUBJ: LPDR NATIONALIZING PRIVATE FRENCH COMPANIES

REF: VIENTIANE 2590

1. FRENCH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, CLAUDE AVRIL, TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE TIN MINE OWNED BY A PRIVATE FRENCH COMPANY, SOCIETE D'ETUDES ET D'EXPLOITATION MINIERES DE L'INDOCHINE (SEEMI) WILL MOST LIKELY BECOME A JOINT LPDR-PRIVATE VENTURE IN EARLY 1977. HE SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS TO DETERMINE PROFIT AND COST SHARING HAVE NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED, BUT THAT THE MINE OPERATION WILL CONTINUE UNDER FRENCH MANAGEMENT. THE LPDR WILL ALSO PUT UNDER SEEMI MANAGEMENT THE NEIGHBORING TIN MINE NATIONALIZED LAST YEAR WHEN THE PRIVATE LAO OWNER, PRINCE BOUN OUM, FLED TO THAILAND.

2. AVRIL SAID THAT TIN EXPORT IN 1976 WOULD BE LESS THAN IT WAS IN 1974 (ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK \$2 MILLION) BUT MORE THAN IN 1975. HE SAID THAT ABOUT 60 TONS HAVE BEEN EXPORTED IN 1976 BUT DID NOT KNOW THE DOLLAR VALUE.

3. THE SEEMI EMPLOYEE ARRESTED WHEN THE LPDR EXPROPRIATED THE COMPANY'S RADIO, REPORTED REF A, HAS BEEN RELEASED. AVRIL
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TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE RADIO HAD BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE DEPART-

MENT OF MINES FOR SEEMI USE. HE BELIEVES THAT THIS WAS A
"FACE SAVING" MOVE TO RETURN THE RADIO TO SEEMI.

4. AVRIL SAID THAT HE IS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THE LPDR
WILLINGNESS TO PAY FOR NATIONALIZED FRENCH CONCERNS, CITING
ITS AGREEMENT TO REIMBURSE BRASSERIES ET GLACIERES INTER-
NATIONALE (BGI) FOR FIFTY PERCENT OF ITS INVESTMENT WHEN
BRASSERIES ET GLACIERES DU LAOS (BGL) WAS NATIONALIZED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
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Draft Date: 15 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: GS
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Type: TE
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